

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the application.

1) (Currently Amended) An iterative method of laying out elements in a defined space using content data and design data, said content data including alphanumeric and/or graphical elements, and said design data including rules associated with one or more particular alphanumeric elements and/or graphical elements, said rules defining a scoring system which defines a score dependent on a degree of conformance to said rules, at least some of the rules being associated with a priority representing ~~a positional~~ an arrangement requirement of the one or more particular elements, the method comprising, in a processing system, the steps of:

- (a) arranging geometrically the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements included in the content data, the arrangement being performed within the defined space so as to obtain a resulting layout;
- (b) scoring the resulting layout according to the rules included in the design data, wherein the score of the resulting layout is weighted according to the priority associated with the at least some of the rules;
- (c) storing said score;
- (d) repeating the above steps (a) to (c) to determine a number of different resulting layouts, thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score; and
- (e) displaying a selected resulting layout.

2) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the defined space is a page of a book.

3) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the defined space is to be displayed on a screen.

4) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including selecting one of the resulting layouts in accordance with the score based on the score.

- 5) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes repeating said steps (a) through (e) for a plurality of different spaces and different elements, thereby obtaining a plurality of selected resulting layouts which define a finished work.
- 6) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, said step (b) of scoring including the step of scoring a high value for an alphanumerical element and/or graphical element that has an optimal relative position in the space, and the step of scoring a low value for an alphanumerical element and/or graphical element that has an poor relative position in the space, the rules determining the optimal and poor position in the space.
- 7) (Cancelled)
- 8) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the space is a page of a book.
- 9) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the space is a frame to be displayed on a screen.
- 10) (Cancelled)
- 11) (Currently Amended) A processing system for laying out elements in a defined space, the processing system comprising:
- (a) A store for storing:
    - (i) content data including alphanumeric and/or graphical elements, and
    - (ii) design data including rules associated with one or more particular alphanumeric elements and/or graphical elements, said rules defining a scoring system which defines a score dependent on a degree of conformance to said rules, at least some of the rules being associated with a priority representing ~~a positional~~ an arrangement requirement of the one or more particular elements;
  - (b) a processor adapted to:
    - (i) arrange geometrically the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements included in the content data to generate a layout, the arrangement being performed within the defined space so as to obtain a resulting layout;

- (ii) score the resulting layout according to the rules included in the design data, wherein the score of the resulting layout is weighted according to the priority associated with the at least some of the rules;
  - (iii) store said score;
  - (iv) repeat the above steps (b)(i) to (b)(iii) to determine a number of different resulting layouts, thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score; and
  - (v) display a selected resulting layout.
- 12) (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 11, the processing system including a display for presenting layouts to the user.
- 13) (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 12, the processing system being adapted to:
- (a) select a resulting layout; and,
  - (b) generate output data representing the selected resulting layout.
- 14) (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 13, the processing system being adapted to select the layout in accordance with at least one of:
- (a) input commands received from a user; and,
  - (b) the scores of the resulting layouts.
- 15) (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 13 or claim 14, the processing system being coupled to a communications network, the processing system being adapted to:
- (a) receive the content and/or designs data from one or more end stations coupled to the communications network; and,
  - (b) store the received content and/or designs data in the store.
- 16) (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 15, the processing system being adapted to transfer the output data to a selected end station.

17) (Previously Presented) The processing system according to any one of the claims 11 to 16, the processing system being adapted to determine the content and/or designs data in accordance with input commands received from a user.

18) (Cancelled)

19) (Cancelled)

20) (Cancelled)

21) (Cancelled)

22) (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein arranging geometrically the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements comprises at least one of:

positioning the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements within the defined space; and  
resizing the alphanumeric and/or graphical elements.

23) (Currently Amended) A method of laying out one or more elements in a defined space, the method comprising, in a processing system, the steps of:

(a) arranging the one or more elements in the defined space according to a first set of rules, the first set of rules relating to a desired arrangement of the one or more elements in the defined space, the first set of rules ~~also~~ defining a predetermined number of resulting layouts ~~in accordance with~~ for a given number of elements;

(b) for at least some of the resulting layouts, determining a score for the arrangement of the elements using a second set of rules, the second set of rules defining a scoring system for determining the score based on the arrangement of the one or more elements within the defined space; thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score; and

(c) displaying the selected resulting layout.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein arranging geometrically the elements comprises at least one of:

positioning the elements within the defined space; and  
resizing the elements.

26. (Previously Presented) A processing system for laying out one or more elements in a defined space, the processing system being configured to:

(a) arrange the one or more elements in the defined space according to a first set of rules, the first set of rules relating to a desired arrangement of the one or more elements in the defined space, the first set of rules also defining a predetermined number of resulting layouts in accordance with a given number of elements;

(b) for at least some of the resulting layouts, determine a score for the arrangement of the elements using a second set of rules, the second set of rules defining a scoring system for determining the score based on the arrangement of the one or more elements within the defined space, thereby allowing one of the resulting layouts to be selected in accordance with the score; and

(c) display the selected resulting layout.

27. (Previously Presented) A processing system according to claim 26, wherein the processing system is configured to:

select one of the resulting layouts in accordance with the score.

28. (Previously Presented) A processing system according to claim 26, wherein the processing system is configured to arrange the one or more elements by performing at least one of:

positioning the elements within the defined space; and  
resizing the elements.

29. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of the rules is a positional rule that defines a desired distance between at least one of:

two of the elements; and  
one of the elements and an edge of the defined space;

wherein the method includes scoring the resulting layout according to a conformance of the resulting layout with the desired distance of the positional rule.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the positional rule is one of the at least some of the rules, and wherein the method includes weighting the score of the resulting layout according to the associated priority of the positional rule.

31. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the method includes the user defining the desired distance for the positional rule.

32. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the elements include a first and second element having a spatial dependency defined therebetween, wherein the method includes arranging the first element within the defined space, causing an automatic arrangement of the second element within the defined space in accordance with the spatial dependency.

33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes the user defining the priority associated with the at least some of the rules.

34. (New) The method according to claim 23, the first set of rules including  $n$  rules and wherein there are  $m$  elements to be arranged in the defined space, wherein the predetermined number of resulting layouts is  $n^m$ .